# 2017-48281

COURT: 080th

**FILED DATE:** 7/20/2017

**CASE TYPE:** Debt/Contract - Consumer/DTPA



# WAHLBERG MCCREARY INC

Attorney: BARTON, DANIEL PATRICK

VS.

# **ARCH INSURANCE GROUP INC**

Attorney: ISBELL, JAMES N.

Document	Post Jdgm	Date	Pgs
Defendants Arch Insurance Group, Inc., York Risk Services Group, Worley CSD and Steve Mazey's Original Answer and General Denial	;	09/22/2017	2
Defendant's Original Answer to Plaintiffs' Original Petition		09/05/2017	7
Citation		09/05/2017	2
Citation		09/01/2017	3
Citation		09/01/2017	3
PLAINTIFFS ORIGINAL PETITION		07/20/2017	18
Civil Case Information Sheet		07/20/2017	1
Civil Process Request		07/20/2017	2

2017-48281 9/27/2017 4:33:33 PM 080

7/20/2017 6:48 PM Chris Daniel - District Clerk Harris County Envelope No. 18338911

ICIAL DISTRICT

By: Justin Kitchens Filed: 7/20/2017 6:48 PM

# 2017-48281 / Court: 080

CAUSE NO.

WAHLBERG MCCREARY, INC.

MCCREARY MANUFACTURING CO., \$
INC.

Plaintiffs, \$

v.

ARCH INSURANCE GROUP, INC.

YORK RISK SERVICES GROUP, \$
WORLEY CSD, STEVE MAZEY

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

HARRIS COURT OF

# PLAINTIFFS' ORIGINAL PETITION

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

Defendants.

COMES NOW, Plaintiff WAHLBERG MCREARY, INC. AND MCCREARY MANUFACTURING CO., INC. ("Wahlberg") and files this, its Original Petition, and for causes of action against Arch Insurance Group, Inc. ("Arch"), York Risk Services, Inc., Worley CSD, Steve Mazey ("Adjusters") (collectively referred to as "Defendants"), would show unto the Court and the jury the following:

# A. DISCOVERY CONTROL PLAN

1. Plaintiff intends to conduct discovery under Level 3 of Tex.R.Civ.P. 190.

# PARTIES AND SERVICE OF PROCESS

- 2. Plantiffs are the owners of the property and named insureds on the Insurance Policy that is the subject of this lawsuit. Wahlberg owns the property situated at 7415 Empire Central, Houston TX 77040 (hereinafter "The Property") and are domiciled at 3810 Dacoma, Houston TX 77092.
  - 3. Defendant Arch engaged in the business of insurance in Texas, operating for the

purpose of accumulating monetary profit and has its principal place of business at 4801 Woodway Drive, Houston TX 77056. Arch regularly conducts the business of insurance in a systematic and continuous manner in the State of Texas. Arch does maintain an agent for service in Texas and accordingly may be served with process by serving certified mail, return receipt requested, to Bob Gefers, 4801 Woodway Dr., Houston TX 77056- 1884 or wherever the company may be found. Citation is requested, at this time.

- 4. Defendant Worley CSD ("Worley") engaged in the business of insurance and insurance adjusting in Texas, operating for the purpose of accumulating monetary profit. Worley regularly conducts the business of insurance in a systematic and continuous manner in the State of Texas. Worley does maintain an agent for service in Texas and accordingly may be served with process by serving certified mail, return receipt requested, to C.T.Corp, 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 900, Dallas TX 75201-3136, or wherever the company may be found. Citation is requested, at this time.
- 5. Defendant York Risk Services Group ("York") engaged in the business of insurance and insurance adjusting in Texas, operating for the purpose of accumulating monetary profit. regularly conducts the business of insurance in a systematic and continuous manner in the State of Texas. York does maintain an agent for service in Texas and accordingly may be served with process by serving certified mail, return receipt requested, to Corporation Service Co. 211 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 620, Austin TX 78701-3218, or wherever the company may be found. Citation is requested, at this time.
- 6. Defendant Steve Mazey is an individual and property adjuster on behalf of Defendant Arch. These causes of action arise out of Steve Mazey's decision to ignore obvious damage to the roof resident and may be served with personal service by a process server at his place of business at

1117-A Patricia, San Antonio TX, or wherever he may be found. Citation is requested at this time.

# C. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

7. This suit is being brought, in part under the Tex. Bus. & Comm. Code, Sec. 1741 et seq., commonly known as the Deceptive Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Act, and cited in this petition as "DTPA". This suit is also brought in part, under the Texas Insurance Code, Chap. 541.151 et seq., Chap. 542.051 et se, and Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § \$8.01 et seq.

# D. <u>JURISDICTION</u>

- 8. This Court has jurisdiction over the cause of action because the amount in controversy is within the jurisdictional limits of the Court. Plaintiff stipulates that the damages in this matter exceed \$1,000,000, excluding interest and costs, and that the damages are within the jurisdictional limits of the court. Plaintiff contends that the determination of damages is within the sole discretion of the Judge and Jury, but made stipulation as required by Tex.R.Civ.P. 47.
- 9. The Court has jurisdiction over Defendants Arch, York and Worley, because these defendants engage in the business of insurance/insurance adjusting in the State of Texas and the causes of action arise out of Defendant's business activities in the State of Texas.
- 10. The Court has urisdiction over Steven Mazey because he is an individual and independent estimator/property adjuster on behalf of Defendants Arch, York and Worley. This cause of action arises out of Defendant's actions and/or inactions during the investigation and evaluation of Plaintiff's wind storm/hail storm claim in the State of Texas.

# E. VENUE

11. Venue for this suit is proper in Harris County UNDER TEX. CIV. PRAC. & REM. CODE § 15.002(a)(1) because all or a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to this claim occurred in Harris County and the Defendants principle place of business is in

Harris County Texas.

# F. NOTICE AND CONDITIONS PRECEDENT

- 12. Defendants have been provided notice, in writing, of the claims made by Plaintiff in this petition, including Plaintiff's actual damages and expenses in the manner and form required.
- 13. All conditions precedent necessary to maintain this action and inorder to maintain claim under the insurance policies in question have been performed, occurred or have been waived by Defendants.

# G. FACTS

- 14. This lawsuit arises out of the following transactions, acts, omissions, and/or events.
- 15. The Property owned by Wahlberg was severely damaged by a two storm events occurring in April 2016 and May 2016. After, the May 2016 storm the property had significant damage and developed numerous additional leaks.
  - 16. According to estimates and inspections the roof needs to be completely replaced.
- 17. Defendant Arch assigned Steven Mazey/York/Worley as the independent claim adjuster and estimator to determine the extent of the damages suffered by Plaintiff. Defendant Adjusters, who inspected The Dioperty, made numerous errors in estimating the value of Plaintiff's claim, all of which were designed to intentionally minimize and underpay the loss incurred by Plaintiff. Defendant Adjusters failed to fully quantify Plaintiff's damages, and instead, grossly undervalued the loss, demonstrating that he did not conduct a thorough investigation of Plaintiff's claim. Defendant Adjusters conducted a substandard inspection of The Property evidenced by their report, which failed to include all of Plaintiff's storm damages noted upon inspection. The damages included in the estimate were grossly undervalued and did not allow for adequate funds to cover the cost of repairs to all the damages sustained. Defendant Adjusters failed to thoroughly review and

properly supervise the inspection of the Property which ultimately led to approving an improper adjustment and an inadequately unfair settlement of Plaintiff's claim. Further, Defendant Adjusters knowingly and intentionally overlooked damages at the Property and used their own inadequate and biased investigation as the basis for erroneously denying a portion of Plaintiff's claim. As a result of Defendant Adjusters' conduct, Plaintiff's claim was underpaid and partially-denied. Without basis and with intent to damage the Plaintiff, Defendant Adjusters concluded that the admitted water intrusion throughout the sub surface of the roof was not the result of the admitted damage to roof caused by the windstorm. This wrong determination was intentionally made to undervalue the claim.

- 18. Plaintiff timely filed its respective claims with Defendants.
- 19. Arch, through the Adjusters, improperly adjusted the claim. Specifically, the Adjusters inspected the property and found damage which required HVAC repair, significant water extraction and ceiling repair. Although it was evident that water intrusion had occurred the Adjusters specifically and intentionally ignored the issues with the roof and grossly undervalued the damages cause the storm. Further, the adjusters intentionally miscalculated the damages to which they admitted in their estimate.
- All payments in Plaintiff's policy were current, and the policy was in full force on the date of the loss. Although the claims were submitted in proper form and within the time specified in the insurance policy befendants have failed to properly pay for all the damages, failed to properly adjust the claims, and failed to properly estimate the value of such damages. In fact, Defendants have improperly delayed the adjustment of the claims and intentionally misrepresented the facts and circumstances of this loss to the Plaintiff.
- 21. To date Defendants have failed to meet the basic obligations to Plaintiff, which include conducting an investigation into the cause of loss, issuing timely payments for undisputed

damages, issuing payment for all lines of coverage owed under the policy, furnishing a written explanation of which items are covered under the previously issued payment, and failing to confirm or deny the claim within a reasonable amount of time.

- 22. Plaintiff has attempted on numerous occasions to obtain full and complete payments for covered losses pursuant to Arch's insurance policy.
- 23. Defendant Arch, acting through their agents, servants, representatives and employees have failed to properly investigate, evaluate and adjust Plaintiff's claims for benefits in good faith and have further failed to deal fairly with Plaintiff.
- 24. Defendants have failed and refused to evaluate the information surrounding facts regarding Plaintiff's covered claims, choosing instead to ince behind palpably incorrect assumptions of its agents, employees, and/or consultants.
- 25. Defendants failed or refused and continue to fail or refuse to pay covered claims on a timely basis as required by the insurance contract and as required by the Texas Insurance Code. Instead Defendants have wrongfully delayed or denied claims when liability for coverage under the policies was reasonably clear.
- 26. In contrast, Plantiff has cooperated with every request made by Defendants and has displayed, at all reasonable times, all of its relevant records, documents, buildings, and contents that are subject to this constraints loss.
- 27. Defendants have persisted in delay or denial to pay the full amounts due for Plaintiff's claims even though a person of ordinary prudence or care would have done otherwise.
- 28. No reasonable basis exists for Defendants to delay and/or refuse to provide covered benefits due and owing under the insurance policies in question.
  - 29. No reasonable basis exists for Defendants to delay and/or refuse to pay covered

benefits due and owing under the insurance policy in question.

- 30. Defendants refused/and or failed to properly evaluate the obvious damages to The Property, forcing Plaintiff to hire its own experts and incur additional expenses.
- 31. Defendants, after conducting inspections of the damaged insured properties and after having received Plaintiff's information regarding the damages, refused and for failed to pay undisputed monies/funds owed to Plaintiff.
- 32. Defendants refused to fully compensate Plaintiff under the erms of the policies, even though Defendants, failed to conduct a reasonable investigation in violation of the Texas Unfair Competition and Unfair Practices Act, Tex. Ins. Code § 541:00(7).
- 33. Defendants performed outcome oriented in vestigations of Plaintiff's claims, which resulted in biased, unfair, and inequitable evaluations of Plaintiff's losses on the properties. Defendants' conduct constitutes violations of Text. Ins. Code 541.060(7).
- 34. Defendants failed to meet their obligations under the Texas Insurance Code regarding payment of claims without delay. Specifically, Defendants have delayed full payment of Plaintiff's claims longer than allowed and to date Plaintiff has not yet received full payment for the claims. Defendants are in violation of Dex. Ins. Code § 542.055.
- 35. From and after the time Plaintiffs' claims were presented to Defendants, their liability to pay the full claims in accordance with the terms of the policies were reasonably clear. However, Defendants refused to pay Plaintiff in full, despite there being no basis whatsoever on which a reasonable insurer would have relied on to deny full payment. Defendants' conduct constitutes a breach of the common law duty of good faith and fair dealing.
- 36. As a result of Defendants' acts and omissions, Plaintiff was forced to retain the undersigned attorneys who are representing Plaintiff in this cause of action.

37. Plaintiff's experiences are not isolated cases. The acts and omissions committed by Defendants in this case, or similar acts and omissions occur with such frequency that they constitute a general business practice of Defendants with regard to handling these types of claims. Defendants' entire process is unfairly designed to reach favorable outcomes for the insurance company at the expense of policyholders.

# H. CAUSES OF ACTION AGAINST DEFENDANTS COUNT I - BREACH OF CONTRACT

- 38. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs one through thirty nine as though fully stated herein.
- 39. Plaintiff and Defendant Arch executed valid and enforceable written insurance contracts providing insurance to the insured location at 360 Bell Drive, Fort Worth, Texas, Plaintiff from the peril of windstorm among other perils. Defendants have complete copies of these policies in their possession.
- 40. All damages and loss to The Property were caused by a direct result of a peril for which Plaintiff was insured pursuanties the policy, namely windstorm damage.
- 41. Plaintiff suffered significant losses with respect to The Property and additional expenses as a result of the windstorm damage.
- 42. Plaintiff submitted claims to Defendants pursuant to the contracts of insurance for damages as a result of windstorm damage.
- 43. Paintiff provided Defendants with proper notice of damage to the exterior and interior of The Property.
- 44. Defendants failed to properly evaluate the damages resulting from the covered cause of loss, windstorm.
  - 45. Defendants failed to retain the appropriate experts and/or consultants to evaluate the

windstorm damages to the subject properties.

- 46. As of this date, Defendants have failed to pay for the windstorm damages to Plaintiff's Property.
- 47. Plaintiff has attempted on numerous occasions to obtain full and complete payment for covered losses pursuant to Insurance Policy.
- 48. Defendants Arch, York and Worley acting through their agents, servants, representatives, and employees, have failed to properly investigate, evaluate, and adjust Plaintiff's claims for benefits in good faith and have further failed to deal fairly with Plaintiff.
- 49. Defendants Arch and Adjusters have failed and refused to evaluate the information surrounding facts regarding Plaintiffs' covered claims, esposing instead to hide behind palpably incorrect assumptions and conclusions of its agents, employees, or consultants.

# COUNT II – VIOLATIONS OF THE TEXAS UNFAIR CLAIMS PRACTICES ACT

- 50. Plaintiff incorporates the preceding paragraphs as though fully stated herein.
- 51. Defendants are required to comply with Tex. Ins. Code §§ 541.051; 541.060; 541.061; and 541.151.
- 52. Defendants conduct constitutes multiple violations of the Texas Insurance Code, including refusing to pay a claim without conducting a reasonable investigation with respect to the claim.
- 53. Defendants misrepresented the insurance policy to Plaintiff and is in violation of Tex. Ins. Code 541.061 *et seq.* including:
  - (1) Making an untrue statement of material fact;
  - (2) Failing to state a material fact necessary to make other statements made not misleading, considering the circumstances under which the statements were

made;

- (3) Making a statement in a manner that would mislead a reasonably prudent person to a false conclusion of a material fact;
- (4) Making a material misstatement of law;
- (5) Failing to disclose a matter required by law to be disclosed, including failing to make a disclosure in accordance with another provision of this dede.
- 54. Defendants' unfair settlement practices, as described above, of tailing to attempt in good faith to effectuate a prompt, fair, and equitable settlement of the claims, even though Defendants' liability under the policy was reasonably clear, constitutes and unfair method of competition, and an unfair and deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance. Tex. Ins. Code §§ 541.051; 541.060; and 541.061.

# COUNT III – NON-COMPLIANCE WITH TEXAS INSURANCE CODE <u>CHAPTER 542 PROMPT PAYMENT OF CLAIMS ACT</u>

- 55. Plaintiff incorporates the preceding paragraphs as though fully stated herein.
- 56. Defendants' conduct constitutes multiple violations of the Texas Prompt Payment of Claims Act. Tex. Ins. Code Chapter 542. All violations made under this article are made actionable by Tex. Ins. Code Section 542.060.
- 57. By accepting insurance premiums but refusing without a reasonable basis to pay benefits due and owing Defendants have engaged in an unconscionable action or course of action as prohibited by the DTPA sec. 17.50(a)(1)(3) in that Defendants took advantage of Plaintiff's lack of knowledge, ability, experience, and capacity to a grossly unfair degree, that also resulted in a gross disparity between the consideration paid in the transaction and the value received, in violation of Chap. 541 of the Texas Insurance Code.

# COUNT IV – BREACH OF COMMON LAW DUTY OF GOOD FAITH AND FAIR DEALING

- 58. Plaintiff incorporates the preceding paragraphs as though fully stated herein.
- 59. Defendants' conduct, as fully specified in Section G as well as the preceding paragraphs, constitutes a breach of the common law duty of good faith and fair dealing owed to Plaintiff pursuant to their insurance contracts.
- 60. Defendants' conduct, as described above, was in direct contradiction of the applicable industry standards of good faith and fair dealing.
- 61. Defendants' failure, as described above, to adequately and reasonably investigate, evaluate, and pay the benefits owed under the insurance contract, knowing full well through the exercise of reasonable diligence that its liability was reasonably clear, resulted in a breach of the duty of good faith and fair dealing.

# I. CAUSES OF ACTION AGAINST DEFENDANT ARCH COUNT V- UNFAIR SETTLEMENT PRACTICES

- 62. Plaintiff incorporates the preceding paragraphs as though fully stated herein.
- 63. Defendant Arches an entity that is required to comply with Tex. Ins. Code §§ 541.051; 541.060; 541.06 and 541.151.
- 64. Defendant Arch's unfair settlement practice, as described above, of misrepresenting to Plaintiff material facts relating to the coverage at issue, constitutes an unfair method of competition and an unfair and deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance. Tex.Ins.Code §541.060(1).
- 65. Defendant Arch's unfair settlement practice, as described above, of failing to attempt in good faith to effectuate a prompt, fair, and equitable settlement of the claims, even though Defendant Arch's liability under the Policy was reasonably clear, constitutes an unfair method of

competition and an unfair and deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance. TEX.INS.CODE \$541.060(2)(A).

- 66. Defendant Arch's unfair settlement practice, as described above, of failing to promptly provide Plaintiff with a reasonable explanation of the basis in the Policy, in relation to the facts or applicable law, for its offer of a compromise settlement of the claims, constitutes an unfair method of competition and an unfair and deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance. Tex.Ins.Code §541.060(3).
- 67. Defendant Arch's unfair settlement practice, as described above, of failing within a reasonable time to affirm or deny coverage of the claims to Rightiff or to submit a reservation of rights to Plaintiff, constitutes an unfair method of competition and an unfair and deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance. Tex.INS.Code \$41.060(4).
- 68. Defendant Arch's unfair settlement practice, as described above, of refusing to pay Plaintiff's claim without conducting a reasonable investigation, constitutes an unfair method of competition and an unfair and deception act or practice in the business of insurance. TEX.INS.CODE §541.060(7).
- 69. Defendant Arch sconduct described above compelled Plaintiff to initiate a lawsuit to recover amounts due under its policy by offering substantially less than the amount ultimately recovered. Defendant Arch refused to even offer more than its own grossly undervalued estimates despite actual ranges which were much greater. This continued failure compelled Plaintiff to file suit. Tex.Ins.Code §542.003(5).

# COUNT VI – NONCOMPLIANCE WITH TEXAS INSURANCE CODE: THE PROMPT PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

- 70. Defendant Arch's conduct constitutes multiple violations of the Texas Insurance Code, Prompt Payment of Claims. All violations made under this article are made actionable by Tex.Ins.Code §542.060.
- 71. Defendant Arch's failure to acknowledge receipt of Plaintiff Claim, commence investigation of the claims, and request from Plaintiff all items, statements, and forms that they reasonably believed would be required within the applicable time constraints, as described above, constitutes a non-prompt payment of claims and a violation of the TEX.INS.CODE §541.055.
- 72. Defendant Arch's failure to notify Plaintiff in writing of its acceptance or rejection of the claims within the applicable time constraints, constitutes a non-prompt payment of the claims within the applicable time constraints and a violation of the Tex.Ins.Code §541.056.
- 73. Defendant Arch's delay of the payment of Plaintiff's claim following its receipt of all items, statements, and forms reasonably requested and required, for longer than the amount of time provided for, as described above, on titutes a non-prompt payment of the claims. Tex.Ins.Code §541.058.

# COUNT VII - BREACH OF THE DUTY OF GOOD FAITH AND FAIR DEALING

- 74. Defendant Arch's conduct constitutes a breach of the common law duty of good faith and fair dealing owed to the insured in insurance contracts.
- 75. Defendant Arch's failure, as described above, to adequately and reasonably investigate and evaluate Plaintiff's claim, although, at that time, Defendant Arch knew or should have known by the exercise of reasonable diligence that its liability was reasonable clear, constitutes a breach of the duty of good faith and fair dealing.

# J. CAUSES OF ACTION AGAINST DEFENDANT MAZEY, YORK AND WORLEY COUNT VIII – UNFAIR SETTLEMENT PRACTICES

- 76. Plaintiff incorporates the preceding paragraphs as though fully stated herein.
- 77. Defendant Adjusters, adjusters on behalf of Arch, is required to comply with Tex. Ins. Code §§ 541.051; 541.060; 541.061; and 541.151.
- 78. Defendant Adjusters are individually liable for their unfair and deceptive acts, irrespective of the fact that he was acting on behalf of Defendant Archin Defendant Adjusters are required to comply with Tex. Ins. Code § 541.151, and is defined by the Texas Insurance Code as a "Person." Under Tex. Ins. Code § 541.002(2), "Person" is defined as any individual, corporation, association, partnership, reciprocal, or inter-insurance exchange, Lloyds plan, fraternal benefit society, or other legal entity engaged in the business of insurance, including an agent, broker, adjuster, or life and health insurance counselor. Thx.Ins.Code §541.002(2) (emphasis added). (See also Liberty Mutual Insurance Co. v. Garrison Contractors, Inc., 966 S.W.2d 482, 484 (Tex.1998) (holding an insurance company employee to be a "person" for the purpose of bringing a cause of action against them under the Texas Insurance Code and subjecting them to individual liability).
- 79. Defendant Adjusters' conduct, as specifically described in Section G, constitutes multiple violations of the Texas Insurance Code, Unfair Settlement Practices. Tex.Ins.Code §541.060(a). All violations under this article are made actionable by Tex.Ins.Code §541.151. Defendant Adjusters' unfair settlement practice, as described above, of misrepresenting to Plaintiff material facts relating to the coverage at issue, constitutes an unfair method of competition and an unfair and deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance. Tex.Ins.Code §541.060(1).
- 80. Defendant Adjusters' unfair settlement practice, as specifically described in Section G, of failing to attempt in good faith to effectuate a prompt, fair, and equitable settlement of the

claims, even though liability under the Policy is reasonably clear, constitutes an unfair method of competition and an unfair and deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance. TEX.INS.CODE §541.060(2)(A).

- 81. The unfair settlement practice of Defendant Adjusters, as specifically described in Section G, of failing to promptly provide the Plaintiff with a reasonable explanation of the basis in the Policy, in relation to the facts or applicable law, for the offer of a compromise settlement of Plaintiff's claim, constitutes an unfair method of competition and an infair and deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance. Tex.Ins.Code §541.060(3)
- 82. Defendant Adjusters' unfair settlement practice as specifically described in Section G, of failing within a reasonable time to affirm or deny overage of the claims to Plaintiff or to submit a reservation of rights to Plaintiff, constitutes an unfair method of competition and an unfair and deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance. Tex.Ins.Code §541.060(4).
- 83. Defendant Adjusters' unfair settlement practice, as specifically described in Section G, of refusing to pay Plaintiff's claim without conducting a reasonable investigation, constitutes an unfair method of competition and an unfair and deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance.

  TEX.INS.CODE §541.060(7).
- 84. Defendant Adjusters conduct described above compelled Plaintiff to initiate a lawsuit to recover amount due under its policy. This continued failure compelled Plaintiff to file suit. Tex.Ins.Cope \$42.003(5).

# K. KNOWLEDGE AND INTENT

85. Each of the acts described above, together and singularly, was done "knowingly" and "intentionally" and was a producing cause of Plaintiff's damages described herein.

# L. <u>JURY DEMAND</u>

86. Plaintiff respectfully demands a trial by jury.

## M. REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE

87. Pursuant to Rule 194, Plaintiff requests that Defendants disclose, within fifty (50) days of service of this request, the information outlined in T.R.C.P. 194(2)(a)(1)

# N. DAMAGES AND PRAYER

- 88. WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Plaintiff herein, complains of Defendants and prays that they be cited to appear and answer and that on a final trial on the merits, Plaintiff recover from Defendants the following:
- 89. Plaintiff would show that all of the aforementioned acts, taken together or singularly, constitute the proximate and/or contributing causes and damages sustained by Plaintiff.
- 90. For breach of contract by Defendants, Plaintiff is entitled to regain the benefit of its bargain, Plaintiff is entitled to actual damages, which include the loss of the benefits that should have been paid pursuant to the policies together with attorneys' fees, pursuant to Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § 38.01 et seq.
- 91. For noncompliance with the Texas Insurance Code by Defendants, Plaintiff is entitled to actual damages, which includes the loss of the benefits that should have been paid pursuant to the policies, including but not limited to direct and indirect consequential damages, mental anguists ourt costs, and attorneys' fees. For knowing conduct of the acts complained of, Plaintiff asks for three times their actual damages, pursuant to Tex. Ins. Code § 541.152 et seq.
- 92. For violation of the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act by Defendants, Plaintiff is entitled to actual damages which include the loss of benefits that should have been paid pursuant to the policies, including but not limited to direct and indirect consequential damages, mental anguish,

court costs, and attorneys' fees. For knowing conduct of the acts complained of, Plaintiff asks three times in actual damages pursuant to Tex. Ins. Code § 17.50(b)(1),

- 93. The denial and/or wrongful delay to provide Plaintiff with the insurance benefits by Defendants was part of a common plan, routine, scheme, and design calculated to deny insurance benefits to policyholders.
- 94. In order to punish Defendants and to set an example and thereby prevent other policyholders from being treated in this manner, exemplary damages should be awarded. Accordingly, Plaintiff seeks exemplary damages in an amount the jury deems appropriate to accomplish these goals.
- 95. For violations of the Common Law Duty of Good Faith and Fair Dealing by Defendants, Plaintiff is entitled to actual damages, direct and indirect consequential damages, mental anguish, and exemplary damages.
- 96. Plaintiff seeks any and all relief to which the Court may find Plaintiff to be justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

### **GREEN & BARTON**

BY: /s/Daniel P. Barton

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**ACTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF** 

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□ Appeal from Municipal or Justice Court       □ Declaratory Judgment       □ Prejudgment Remedy         □ Arbitration-related       □ Gamishment       □ Protective Order         □ Attachment       □ Interpleader       □ Receiver         □ Bill of Review       □ License       □ Sequestration         □ Certiorari       □ Mandamus       □ Temporary Restraining Order/Injunction         □ Class Action       □ Post-judgment       □ Turnover						
	not select if it is a family law case): damages of any kind, penalties, cost nonetary relief		ses, pre-judgment interes	st, and attorney fees		

Over \$100,000 but not more than \$200,000
Over \$200,000 but not more than \$1,000,000
Over \$1,000,000

Case 4:17-cv-02917 Document 1-4 Filed in TXSD on 09/28/17 Chase 4:17-cv-02917 Document 1-4 Filed in TXSD on 09/28/17 Chase 4:17-cv-02917 Civil PROCESS REQUEST

CIVIL PROCESS REQUEST

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CIVIL PROCESS REQUEST

By: KITCHENS, JUSTIN R

Filed: 7/20/2017 6:48:08 PM

FOR EACH PARTY SERVED YOU MUST FURNISH ONE (1) COPY OF THE PLEADING FOR WRITS FURNISH TWO (2) COPIES OF THE PLEADING PER PARTY TO BE SERVED

CASE NUMBER: CUR	RRENT COURT:
TYPE OF INSTRUMENT TO BE SERVED (See Reverse For Types):	PLAINTIFFS' ORIGINAL PETITION
FILE DATE OF MOTION:	07/20/2017 Month/ Day/ Year
SERVICE TO BE ISSUED ON (Please List Exactly As The Name A  1. NAME: Arch Insurance Group, Inc.  ADDRESS: 4801 Woodway Dr., Houston TX 77056-  AGENT, (if applicable): Bob Gefers  TYPE OF SERVICE/PROCESS TO BE ISSUED (see reverse for specific SERVICE BY (check one):  ATTORNEY PICK-UP  CIVIL PROCESS SERVER - Authorized Person to Pick MAIL  PUBLICATION:  Type of Publication: COURTHOUSE DOOR	ppears In The Pleading To Be Served):  - 1884, or wherever he may be found  c type):  CONSTABLE  ck-up:  Phone:  CERTIFIED MAIL
OTHER, explain Return to undersigned attorney  *****  ****  Worley CSD	**************************************
ADDRESS: 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 900, Dalias TX  AGENT, (if applicable): C.T.Corp  TYPE OF SERVICE/PROCESS TO BE ISSUED (see reverse for specification)	75201-3136 or wherever he may be found ic type): Citation
SERVICE BY (check one):  ATTORNEY PICK-UP  CIVIL PROCESS SERVER - Authorized Person to Pi  MAIL  PUBLICATION:  Type of Publication:  COURTHOUSE DOOR	CONSTABLE  ick-up: Phone:  CERTIFIED MAIL  R, or UR CHOICE:
ATTORNEY (OR ATTORNEY'S AGENT) REQUESTING SERVICE NAME:  Daniel P. Barton  MAILING ADDRESS:  PHONE NUMBER:  (713) 227-4747  area code phone number  EMAIL ADDRESS:  dbarton@bartonlawgroup.com or area.	TEXAS BAR NO./ID NO. 00789774  707  FAX NUMBER: (713) 621-5900  area code fax number

# CIVIL PROCESS REQUEST

FOR EACH PARTY SERVED YOU MUST FURNISH ONE (1) COPY OF THE PLEADING FOR WRITS FURNISH TWO (2) COPIES OF THE PLEADING PER PARTY TO BE SERVED
CASE NUMBER: CURRENT COURT:
TYPE OF INSTRUMENT TO BE SERVED (See Reverse For Types):  PLAINTIFFS' ORIGINAL PETITION
FILE DATE OF MOTION: 07/20/2017  Month/ Day/ Year
SERVICE TO BE ISSUED ON (Please List Exactly As The Name Appears In The Pleading To Be Served):  1. NAME: York Risk Services, Inc  ADDRESS: 211 E. 7 <sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 620, Austin TX 78701-3218 or wherever he may be found  AGENT, (if applicable): Corporation Service Co.
TYPE OF SERVICE/PROCESS TO BE ISSUED (see reverse for specific type):
SERVICE BY (check one):  ATTORNEY PICK-UP CIVIL PROCESS SERVER - Authorized Person to Pick-up: MAIL PUBLICATION: Type of Publication: NEWSPAPER OF YOUR CHOICE: Return to undersigned attorney
***************************************
****  2. NAME: Steve Mazey
ADDRESS: 1117-A Patricia, San Antonio TX 78213-1332 or wherever he may be found
AGENT, (if applicable):
TYPE OF SERVICE/PROCESS TO BE ISSUED (see reverse for specific type):
SERVICE BY (check one):  ATTORNEY PICK-UP  CONSTABLE
CIVIL PROCESS SERVER - Authorized Person to Pick-up: Phone:
MAIL  PUBLICATION:  Type of Publication:  COURTHOUSE DOOR, or  NEWSPAPER OF YOUR CHOICE:  Return to undersigned attorney
ATTORNEY (OR ATTORNEY'S AGENT) REQUESTING SERVICE:  NAME: Daniel P. Barton  TEXAS BAR NO./ID NO.  1201 Shepherd Drive, Houston, TX 77007
MAILING ADDRESS:
PHONE NUMBER: (713) 621-5900  area code phone number dbarton@bartonlawgroup.com or angela@bartonlawgroup.com (713) 621-5900  area code fax number dbarton@bartonlawgroup.com or angela@bartonlawgroup.com
EMAIL ADDRESS:

Case 4:17-cv-02917 Document 1-4 Filed in TXSD on 09/28/17 Page 23 of 39 9/5/2017 3:23 PM Chris Daniel - District Clerk Harris County Envelope No. 19236908
By: ALEX CASARES Filed: 9/5/2017 3:23 PM

CAUSE NO. 201748281

	RECEIPT NO.	0.00	MTA
	******		TR # 73398388
PLAINTIFF: WAHLBERG MCCREARY INC		In The 80	th strict Court
vs. DEFENDANT: ARCH INSURANCE GROUP INC		of Harris C	ounty, Texas
		80TH DISTRI	
	0.7.7.1.0.1.0.N	Houston, TX	
THE STATE OF TEXAS	CITATION	4647	8-1
County of Harris			
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O: ARCH INSURANCE GROUP INC MAY BE BOB GEFERS		87 WILLIA	msburg L
A CONTRACTOR OF STATE	<i>√</i>		The second secon
Attached is a copy of <u>PLAINTIFF</u>			
This instrument was filed on the $\frac{2C}{2}$ and court. The instrument attached	describes the claim again	ist you.	
YOU HAVE BEEN SUED, You may emwritten answer with the District Cl next following the expiration of 20 default judgment may be taken aga	erk who issued this citat days after you were serv	ion by 10:00 a.m	on the Monday
O OFFICER SERVING:  This citation was issued on 2	eeth day of July, 2017, ur	ider my hand and	
eal of said Court.	Chin Zi	) ,	
	86 - S.		
ssued at request of:	/ / / - 1	EL, District Cler	k
ARTON, DANIEL 201 SHEPHERD DRIVE	Harris Cou 201 Caroli	nty, Texas ne, Houston, Texa	s 77002
OUSTON, TX 77007		4651, Houston, Te	
Pel: (713) 227-4747	Generated By: E	RINCEFIELD, REGIN	IA LYNN
**	G8B//10735142		
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# Case 4:17-cv-02917 Document 1-4 Filed in TXSD on 09/28/17 Page 24 of 39

## SERVICE AFFIDAVIT No. 2017-48281

WAHLBERG MCCREARY, INC. : IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

MCCREARY MANUFACTURING CO.,

INC.

VS.

ARCH INSURANCE GROUP, INC. : 80TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

YORK RISK SERVICES GROUP,
WORLEY CSD, STEVE MAZEY

On this the 1st Day of September, 2017, **Charles Fitzpatrick** appeared before me, the undersigned Notary Public and after being duly sworn, deposed and stated as follows:

- 1. My name is **Charles Fitzpatrick**. I am over eighteen (18) years of age and am fully competent to make this affidavit. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein, and they are true and correct.
- 2. I am a Certified Civil Process Server authorized under written order of the Supreme Court of Texas service civil process in the State of Texas, including Harris County.
  - 3. I was employed to serve the defendant a copy of Citation & Plaintiff's Original Petition.
  - 4. I am not a party to this case and I have no interest in the outcome of this case.
  - 5. I have never been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor in any City, State or Federal Jurisdiction.

Came to Hand at 10:00AM on 08/04/2017. Served at 87 Williamsburg Ln., Houston, Texas 77024 in Harris County on 09/01/2017 at 10:31AM. I hand served a copy of the Citation & Plaintiff's Original Petition to defendant Arch Insurance Group Inc. by serving its Registered Agent Bob Gefers.

Charles Fitzpatrick

State Certified Civil Process Server

HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

SCH000010505

Exp: September 30, 2019

STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF HARRIS

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, in and for said county and state, on this the 1st of September, 2017 personally appeared **Charles Fitzpatrick**, known to me, after being identified through the driver's license, to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that the statements contained in the foregoing affidavit are true and correct.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO ME on this the 1st of September, 2017.

ADRIAN LIRA
Notary Public, State of Texas
My Commission Expires
March 04, 2019

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

	CAUSE NO. 201740201	
	RECEIPT NO. ********	0.00 MTA TR # 73398396
LAINTIFF: WAHLBERG MCCREARY IN	IC .	In The 80th
vs. EFENDANT: ARCH INSURANCE GROUP	INC	Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas 80TH DISTRICT COURT Houston, TX
	CITATION	11.170 2
HE STATE OF TEXAS ounty of Harris		46478-2
ounty of marris		
O: WORLEY CSD MAY BE SERVED BY (OR WHEREVER THE COMPANY MA 1999 BRYAN STREET SUITE 90	Y BE FOUND)	
Attached is a copy of <u>PLAIN</u>	· (/)	)
his instrument was filed on th nd court. The instrument attac		
ritten answer with the Distric	t Clerk who issued this cita of 20 days after you were ser	or your attorney do not file a tion by 10:00 a.m on the Monday ved this citation and petition,
O OFFICER SERVING:		
This citation was issued eal of said Court.	on 26th day of July, 2017, u	_
	OF HARRIS Chin (2)	miel
ssued at request of: ARTON, DANIEL 201 SHEPHERD DRIVE OUSTON, TX 77007 el: (713) 227-4747 ar No.: 789774	CHRIS DAN: Harris Cou 201 Carol: (P.O. Box	EEL, District Clerk anty, Texas ine, Houston, Texas 77002 4651, Houston, Texas 77210) BRINCEFIELD, REGINA LYNN
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ame to hand at o'clock	OFFICER/AUTHORIZED PERSON	
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ttached thereto and I endorsed Certify which I affix my han	on said committation day	of,
žĒ: \$	- VA	
(FF	" CHIL	County, Texas
A. A.	KP BY	Deputy
n this day, ignature appears e/she stated that eturn.	, k .g return, personally appea on was executed by him/her in	nown to me to be the person whose red. After being by me duly sworn the exact manner recited on the
WORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE	ME, on this day of	

Notary Public

## SERVICE AFFIDAVIT No. 2017-48281

WAHLBERG MCCREARY, INC.

MCCREARY MANUFACTURING CO.,

INC.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

VS.

ARCH INSURANCE GROUP, INC.

YORK RISK SERVICES GROUP,

WORLEY CSD, STEVE MAZEY

HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

80TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

On this the 30th Day of August, 2017, Joseph Morse appeared before me, the undersigned Notary Public and after being duly sworn, deposed and stated as follows:

- 1. My name is Joseph Morse. I am over eighteen (18) years of age and am fully competent to make this affidavit. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein, and they are true and correct.
- 2. I am a Certified Civil Process Server authorized under written order of the Supreme Court of Texas service civil process in the State of Texas, including Harris County.
  - 3. I was employed to serve the defendant a copy of Citation & Plaintiff's Original Petition.
  - 4. I am not a party to this case and I have no interest in the outcome of this case.
  - 5. I have never been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor in any City, State or Federal Jurisdiction.

Came to Hand at 10:00 AM on 08/04/2017. Served at 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 900, Dallas, TX 75201 in Dallas County on 8/11/2017 at 9:15 am. Certified Mail (7017 0530 0001 086 8355) delivered a copy of the Citation & Plaintiff's Original Petition to defendant Worley CSD may be served by serving CT Corp.

Joseph Morse

State Certified Civil Process Server

SCH000003036

Exp: September 30, 2019

STATE OF TEXAS **COUNTY OF HARRIS** 

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, in and for said county and state, on this the 30th of August, 2017 personally appeared Joseph Morse, known to me, after being identified through the driver's license, to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that the statements contained in the foregoing affidavit are true and correct.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO ME on this the 30th of August, 2017.

JAIME HOLDER Notary Public, State of Texas Comm. Expires 06-06-2021 Notary ID 124001533

Notary Public in and for the State of Text

# **USPS Tracking® Results**

FAQs > (http://faq.usps.com/?articleId=220900)

# Track Another Package +

Remove X Tracking Number: 70170530000108618355 Delivered Updated Delivery Day: Friday, August 11, 2017 (i) **Product & Tracking Information** See Available Actions **Postal Product:** Features: Certified Mail™ LOCATION DATE & TIME STATUS OF ITEM August 11, 2017, 9:15 am Delivered **DALLAS, TX 75201** COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION Complete items 1, 2, and 3. □ Agent Print your name and address on the reverse ☐ Addressee so that we can return the card to you. B. Received by (Printed Name) Augu Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits. D. Is delivery address different from item 1? 1. Article Addressed to: If YES, enter delivery address below: **Worley CSD** Augu Registered Agent: CT Corporation 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 900 46478-1 Dallas, TX 75201 ☐ Priority Mall Express®☐ Registered Mall™☐ Registered Mall Restricted Delivery☐ Return Receipt for Marrhandisa Service Type Augu ☐ Adult Signature
☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery Certified Mail® 9590 9402 2222 6193 5008 55 Certified Mail Restricted Delivery Merchandise □ Collect on Delivery ☐ Signature Confirmation™ ☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery 2 Article Number (Transfer from service label) ☐ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery Mail Restricted Delivery IO)

https://tools.usps.com/go/TrackConfirmAction'?tRef=fullpage&tLc=2&text28777=&tLabe...

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PS Form 3811, July 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9053

8/30/2017

Domestic Return Receipt

Chris Daniel - District Clerk Harris County
Envelope No. 19197283
By: ALEX CASARES
Filed: 9/1/2017 10:17 AM

CAUSE NO. 201748281

	RECEIPT NO.		0.00	MTA
	****	*****		TR # 73398407
PLAINTIFF: WAHLBERG MCCREARY INC			In The 8	0th
vs.				District Court County, Texas
DEFENDANT: ARCH INSURANCE GROUP INC			80TH DISTR	_
			Houston, I	X
	CITATIO	ON	44	478-4
THE STATE OF TEXAS County of Harris			^1	•
-				
TO: YORK RISK SERVICES INC MAY BE SE	POWER BY SERVE	NC ITS DECISER	AGENT	
CORPORATION SERVICES INC MAI BE SE	ERVED BI SERVI.	( )	> NGENI	
(OR WHEREVER THE COMPANY MAY BE		2212		
211 E 7TH STREET SUITE 620 AU Attached is a copy of <u>PLAINTIFF</u> '				
Accached is a copy of FDAINTIFF	3 OKIGINAL IL	1111014		
This instrument was filed on the $\underline{20t}$ and court. The instrument attached $\underline{c}$				cause number
YOU HAVE BEEN SUED, You may emp	oloy an attorn	ey. If you or yo	our attorne	y do not file a
written answer with the District Cle next following the expiration of 20 a default judgment may be taken agai	days after yo	Ythis citation but were served the	oy 10:00 a.m nis citation	n on the Monday n and petition,
TO OFFICER SERVING:	The your			
This citation was issued on 26	of Jul	y, 2017, under m	ny hand and	
seal of said Court.	C~			
	OF HARRO	Chin Daniel		
Issued at request of:		CHRIS DANIEL, D		erk
BARTON, DANIEL 1201 SHEPHERD DRIVE	) [E  ]	Harris County, 201 Caroline, H		as 77002
HOUSTON, TX 77007		(P.O. Box 4651,		
Tel: (713) 227-4747  Bar No.: 789774	- Fr to to contract	rated By: BRINCE	EFIELD, REG	INA LYNN
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			Notary Pu	blic

## SERVICE AFFIDAVIT No. 2017-48281

WAHLBERG MCCREARY, INC.

MCCREARY MANUFACTURING CO.,

INC.

VS.

ARCH INSURANCE GROUP, INC. YORK RISK SERVICES GROUP,

WORLEY CSD, STEVE MAZEY

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

80TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

On this the 30th Day of August, 2017, Joseph Morse appeared before me, the undersigned Notary Public and after being duly sworn, deposed and stated as follows:

- 1. My name is Joseph Morse. I am over eighteen (18) years of age and am fully competent to make this affidavit. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein, and they are true and correct.
- 2. I am a Certified Civil Process Server authorized under written order of the Supreme Court of Texas service civil process in the State of Texas, including Harris County.
  - 3. I was employed to serve the defendant a copy of Citation & Plaintiff's Original Petition.
  - 4. I am not a party to this case and I have no interest in the outcome of this case.
  - 5. I have never been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor in any City, State or Federal Jurisdiction.

Came to Hand at 10:00 AM on 08/04/2017. Served at 211 East 7th Street, Suite 620, Austin, TX 78701 in Travis County on 8/10/2017 at 10:23 am. I hand served a copy of the Citation & Plaintiff's Original Petition to defendant York Risk Services Group, INC. by serving Registered Agent CSC.

Joseph Morse

State Certified Civil Process Server

SCH000003036

Exp: September 30, 2019

STATE OF TEXAS **COUNTY OF HARRIS** 

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, in and for said county and state, on this the 30th of August, 2017 personally appeared Joseph Morse, known to me, after being identified through the driver's license, to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that the statements contained in the foregoing affidavit are true and correct.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO ME on this the 30th of August, 2017.

JAIME HOLDER Notary Public, State of Texas Comm. Expires 06-06-2021 Notary ID 124001533

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

# **USPS Tracking® Results**

FAQs > (http://faq.usps.com/?articleId=220900)

Domestic Return Receipt

# Track Another Package + Remove X Tracking Number: 70170530000108618409 Delivered Updated Delivery Day: Thursday, August 10, 2017 (1) **Product & Tracking Information** See Available Actions **Postal Product:** Features: Certified Mail™ DATE & TIME STATUS OF ITEM LOCATION August 10, 2017, 10:23 am **AUSTIN, TX 78741** Delivered COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION A. Signature ■ Complete items 1, 2, and 3. □ Agent Print your name and address on the reverse ☐ Addressee so that we can return the card to you. B. Received by (Printed Name) Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, August or on the front if space permits. 1. Article Addressed to: D. Is delivery address different from item 1? If YES, enter delivery address below: York Risk Services, Inc. Registered Agent: CSC August ON 211 E. 7<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 620 Austin, TX 78701 46478-4 Service Type ☐ Priority Mail Express® ☐ Registered Mail™ □ Registered Mail Restricted □ Registered Mail Restricted □ Delivery □ Return Receipt for Merchandise □ Steady Se Adult Signature August Adult Signature Restricted Delivery Certified Mail® 9590 9402 2222 6193 5010 67 Certified Mail Restricted Delivery Collect on Delive ☐ Signature Confirmation™ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery 2. Article Number (Transfer from service label) Signature Confirmation 🗆 insured Mali Restricted Delivery Mail Restricted Delivery

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PS Form 3811, July 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9053

9/5/2017 9:30 AM Chris Daniel - District Clerk Harris County Envelope No. 19221490 By: Bonnie Lugo Filed: 9/5/2017 9:30 AM

### CAUSE NO. 2017-48281

WAHLBERG MCCREARY, INC., and	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
MCCREARY MANUFACTURING CO.,	§	
INC.	§	
	§	
Plaintiffs,	§	<b>≪</b> 1
	§	
V.	§	HARRIS É OUNTY, TEXAS
	§	
ARCH INSURANCE GROUP, INC.,	§	
YORK RISK SERVICES GROUP,	§	
WORLEY CSD, and STEVE MAZEY	§	
	§	
Defendants.	§	80TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

# DEFENDANT'S ORIGINAL ANSWER TO PLAINTIFFS' ORIGINAL PETITION

Defendant York Risk Services Group, Rice ("York") files this Original Answer in response to the Original Petition filed on July 20, 2017 (the "Petition"), and any amendments or supplements thereto, by Plaintiffs Wahlberg McCreary, Inc. and McCreary Manufacturing Co, Inc. ("Plaintiffs"). York reserves the right to amend its original answer pursuant to rule 63 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure or any other applicable rule or court order.

# **GENERAL DENIAL**

1. As authorized by Rule 92 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, York generally denies each and every, all and singular, material allegation contained in the Petition, and any amendments or supplements thereto, and demands that

Plaintiffs provide strict proof of each and every allegation by the appropriate burden of proof, as required by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas.

# AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES AND OTHER DEFENSIVE MATTERS

Subject to and without waiving their general denial, and for further answer if necessary, York, pursuant to Tex. R. Civ. P. 94 and Texas law, asserts the following affirmative defenses and other defensive matters, each of which is pled in the alternative to the extent necessary.

- 2. Pleading in the alternative, to the extern necessary, York asserts that Plaintiffs' alleged claims are barred or limited in whole or in part, by the terms, conditions, limitations, exclusions, deductible in any applicable insurance policy.
- 3. Pleading in the alternative, to the extent necessary, York asserts that Plaintiffs' alleged claims are barred, in whole or in part, to the extent Plaintiffs failed to mitigate their alleged damages, if any, and to the extent Plaintiffs' own acts, errors or omissions proximately aused or contributed to Plaintiffs' alleged damages.
- 4. Pleating in the alternative, to the extent necessary, York asserts that Plaintiffs' alleged injuries and damages, if any, were the result of conditions not caused, in whole or in part, by any act or omission by or on behalf of York.

- 5. Pleading in the alternative, to the extent necessary, York asserts that Plaintiffs' alleged injuries and damages, if any, were due to a new and independent, superseding, or intervening cause, in whole or in part, for which York is not responsible.
- 6. Pleading in the alternative, to the extent necessary, York asserts that Plaintiffs' alleged injuries and damages, if any, were proximately caused, in whole or in part, by the acts, omissions, fault, negligence, responsibility, or other conduct by or on behalf of other persons or entities for whom York is not legally responsible.
- 7. Pleading in the alternative, to the extent necessary, York asserts and pleads the application of Chapters 32 and 33 of the Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code, and seeks a comparison of its responsibility, any such responsibility being expressly denied, with Plaintiffs, any codefendants, any and all settling parties, all designated responsible third parties, and all responsible non-parties, if any. York requests that any judgment rendered reflect the rights of centribution accorded in Chapter 33 of the Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code
- 8. Pleading in the alternative, to the extent necessary, York asserts that Plaintiffs' claims are barred, in whole or in part, by comparative responsibility, and that the responsibility of other persons or entities must be proportioned as required by Chapters 32 and 33 of the Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code.

9. Pleading further, and in the alternative, to the extent necessary, and with respect to Plaintiffs' allegations of punitive and/or exemplary damages, which are otherwise denied, York pleads as follows:

b.

- a. Plaintiffs' alleged claim for punitive damages against York cannot be maintained because an award of punitive damages under current Texas law would be void for vagueness. Among other deficiencies, there is an absence of adequate notice of what alleged conduct is subject to punishment, an absence of adequate notice as to the maximum amount of punitive damages that a jury may impose, a risk that punitive damages will be imposed retrospectively, and it would permit and encourage arbitrary and discriminatory enforcement, all in violation of the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, Article 1, Sections 13 and 19 of the Texas Constitution, and the common law and public policies of the State of Texas.
  - Plaintiffs' alleged claim for punitive damages against York cannot be maintained because any award of punitive damages under Texas law would be by a jury that (1) is not provided standards of sufficient clarity for determining the appropriateness, and the appropriate size, of a puritive damages award, (2) is not adequately instructed on the limits on punitive damages imposed by the applicable principles of deterrence and punishment, (3) is not expressly prohibited from awarding punitive damages, or determining the amount of an award of punitive damages, in whole or in part, on the basis of invidiously discriminatory characteristics, including the gesidence, wealth, and corporate status of any defendant, (4) is permitted to award punitive damages under a standard for determining liability for punitive damages that is vague and arbitrary and does not define with sufficient clarity the conduct or mental state that makes punitive damages permissible, and (5) is not subject to adequate trial court and appellate judicial review for reasonableness and furtherance of legitimate purposes on the basis of objective standards. Any such verdict, the likelihood of which is otherwise denied, would violate York's due process rights guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and by the Article I, Sections 13 and 19, and would be

improper under the common law and public policies of the State of Texas.

- c. To the extent that the law of Texas permits punishment to be measured by the net worth or financial status of a defendant, and imposes greater punishment on a defendant with larger net worth, then any such punitive award, the likelihood of which is expressly denied, would be unconstitutional because it permits arbitrary, capricious and fundamentally unfair punishment, allows bias and prejudice to infect verdicts imposing punishment, allows punishment to be imposed based on lawful profits and conduct of a defendant in other States, and allows dissimilar treatment of similarly situated defendants, in violation of the due process and equal protection provisions of the Courteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, and Article Sections 13 and 19 of the Texas State Constitution.
- 10. York reserves the right to assert additional affirmative defenses pursuant to Tex. R. Civ. P. 94 after completing a reasonable inquiry into each and every material allegation contained in the Petition and any amendments or supplements thereto.

# CONCLUSION AND PRAYER

Defendant York Risk Services Group, Inc. respectfully requests that judgment be granted in its favor, that Plaintiffs Wahlberg McCreary, Inc. and McCreary Manufacturing Chinc. take nothing by reason of their claims against York Risk Services Group, Inc. and that Defendant York Risk Services Group, Inc. be granted all such other and further relief, at law and in equity, general and special, to which it may be justly entitled.

Dated: September 5, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

PARSONS MCENTIRE MCCLEARY & CLARK PLLC

/s/ Robert M. Rosen

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Attornegs for Defendant

York Risk Services Group, Inc.

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing instrument was served on all known counsel of record in accordance with the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure on September 5, 2017.

> Daniel P. Barton GREEN & BARTON 1201 Shepherd Drive Houston, Texas 77007

Via U.S. Mail

Ryan D. \_\_\_\_\_/s/ Ryan D. Starbird
Ryan D. Starbird

Chris Daniel - District Clerk Harris County
Envelope No. 19624719
By: ALEX CASARES
Filed: 9/22/2017 5:56 PM

### CAUSE NO. 2017-48281

WAHLBERG MCCREARY, INC.	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
MCCREARY MANUFACTURING CO.,	§	
INC.	§	
<b>Plaintiffs</b>	§	
	§	
VS.	§	
	§	
	§	HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
ARCH INSURANCE GROUP, INC.	§	
YORK RISK SERVICES GROUP,	§	
WORLEY CSD, STEVE MAZEY	§	
	§	
Defendants	§	80TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

# DEFENDANTS ARCH INSURANCE GROUP, INC., YORK RISK SERVICES GROUP, WORLEY CSD and STEVE MAZEY'S ORIGINAL ANSWER AND GENERAL DENIAL

# TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

Defendants, Arch Insurance Group, Inc., York Risk Services Group, Worley CSD and Steve Mazey files this their Original Answer and General Denial to Plaintiffs' Original Petition and would respectfully show the court as follows:

# I. GENERAL DENIAL

Defendants assert a general denial as authorized by Rule 92 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure and respectfully requests that Plaintiffs be required to prove the charges and allegations made against it by a preponderance of the evidence as is required by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas.

# II. PRAYER

Defendants request that Plaintiffs take nothing by its claims and that it be granted any and all other relief to which they may show itself justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

THOMPSON, COE, COUSINS & IRONS, L.L.P.

By: /s/James N. Isbell

James N. Isbell

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### ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANTS

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served on all counsel of record, pursuant to the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, on this the  $22^{nd}$  day of September, 2017.

Robert D. Green Daniel P. Barton Wayne D. Collins Hunter M. Klein Green & Barton 1201 Shepherd Drive Houston, Texas 77007

\_/s/ James N. Isbell

James N. Isbell